

Title	Questionnaire in preparation of the Experts' Group meeting of 8 to 11 February 2021 on international transfers of maintenance funds
Document	Prel. Doc. No 11 of October 2020
Author	PB
Agenda Item	TBD
Mandate(s)	C&D No 25 of CGAP 2020
Objective	To prepare for the Experts' Group meeting of February 2021 by collecting information on current arrangements regarding international transfers of maintenance funds. Replies to the Questionnaire should be sent to the PB by e-mail to < secretariat@hcch.net > no later than 15 January 2021
Action to be Taken	For Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input type="checkbox"/>
Annexes	N/A
Related Documents	Prel. Doc. 11 of November 2019 - Report of the Experts' Group on international transfers of maintenance funds

Questionnaire in preparation of the Experts' Group meeting of 8 to 11 February 2021 on international transfers of maintenance funds

- 1 At its 3 to 6 March 2020 meeting, the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) of the HCCH concluded and decided as follows regarding the work of the Experts' Group (EG) on international transfers of maintenance funds:

“25. CGAP mandated the Experts' Group on international transfer of maintenance funds to continue its work and invited the PB to make arrangements for a further meeting of the Experts' Group by videoconference. The findings of the Expert's Group will inform the work of the SC.”

- 2 In preparation of the 8 to 11 February 2021 videoconference meeting of the EG, to take place in the afternoon Central European Time, delegates / experts are invited to review the “Report of the Experts' Group on international transfers of maintenance funds”¹ which includes the Conclusions and Recommendations of the first meeting of the EG in September 2019 (C&R EG) that reflect existing good practices found in a number of States. Delegates / experts are also invited to complete the following Questionnaire.
- 3 Membership of the EG is open to all Members of the HCCH regardless of whether they are Contracting Parties to the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention or not. To ensure the widest possible representation, any contributions or proposals from Members which have not yet participated in the work of the EG are welcome.

Instructions for completion of the Questionnaire

- 4 The Questionnaire is being sent to Central Authorities as well as National and Contact Organs. Central Authorities are asked to co-ordinate as appropriate between themselves and other competent authorities. For Contracting Parties to the Convention, Central Authorities are ultimately responsible for submitting the completed Questionnaire to the Permanent Bureau (PB).
- 5 In order to allow the PB to extract parts of the Questionnaire for a compilation and analysis of the responses, you are kindly requested to use **this Word version** of the document, and **not return a PDF version** of the completed Questionnaire.
- 6 We kindly request that replies to the Questionnaire be sent to the PB by e-mail to < secretariat@hcch.net > **no later than 15 January 2021** with the following subject matter captioned in the heading of the e-mail: “[name of State] Response to transfer of maintenance funds Questionnaire – 2021 Special Commission”. Any questions concerning the Questionnaire may be directed to < secretariat@hcch.net >.
- 7 The PB intends, except where expressly asked not to do so, to place all responses to the Questionnaire on the HCCH website (< www.hcch.net >). Please therefore clearly identify any responses which you do not want to be placed on the website.
- 8 The findings of the EG will inform the work of the Special Commission (SC) tentatively scheduled to take place during the week of 7 to 11 June 2021. The dates of the SC will be discussed and decided at the CGAP 2021 meeting, which is scheduled to take place during the week of 1 to 5 March 2021. Thank you for your kind co-operation as the PB prepares for the meeting of the SC in 2021.

¹ CGAP Prel. Doc. No 11 of November 2019 “Report of the Experts' Group on international transfers of maintenance funds” is available at: < <https://assets.hcch.net/docs/4def3f24-fde9-487a-9396-531105e196d5.pdf> >.

Questionnaire

Name of State or territorial unit:^[1]	England
<i>For follow-up purposes</i>	
Name of contact person:	Diane Bruce
Name of Authority / Office:	Maintenance Payments Business Centre
Telephone number:	01284 829504
E-mail address:	diane.bruce@Justice.gov.uk

9 For the purpose of the 8 to 11 February 2021 meeting of the EG, delegates / experts are invited to report on consideration given to and / or implementation of the following arrangements in their jurisdiction:

a. Developments in general regarding the international transfer of maintenance funds

There are currently no general developments to mention outside of the responses in this survey

b. Elimination of the use of cheques (see C&R EG No 1)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

We are able to pay via electronic transfer, but we must be provided with IBAN details for paying out. To receive electronic payments in we must be provided with a payment schedule and the reference number for the account.

c. Solutions with regard to increased transparency and cost reduction of transfers and currency conversion (see C&R EG Nos 2 and 10)

Not being considered. Please explain:

HMCTS covers the cost of conversion for monies coming in. Payments going out are levied by the recipient's Bank.

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

^[1] The term "State" in this Questionnaire includes a territorial unit, where relevant.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

All MEBCs now use the Bank of England exchange rate which now leads to consistency across England and Wales

d. Solutions where creditors would not bear the costs related to the transfer of funds (see C&R EG No 2)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Is being considered. Please explain:

Any change would require operational consultation - this will be discussed going forward to consider whether any improvement can be made.

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Please insert text here

e. Solutions where the institution(s) facilitating the transfer of funds could cover the costs of such transfers by withholding the amounts for a few days (see C&R EG No 2)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

MPBC currently hold IBAN Payments until the amount reaches £100, We also do not pay out cheques below £25.00. When amounts reach above these limits the money is released for payment.

f. Requested Central Authority arrangements with their bank to cover transfer fees or other arrangements to that effect (see C&R EG No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

This is not being prioritised at the moment but could be if needed.

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

g. Requesting Central Authority providing confirmation to the requested Central Authority that the amounts received are the same as the amounts sent and, where applicable, information on the reasons for any difference (see C&R EG No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[A schedule of payments would need to accompany the payments, if paying in a bundle.](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

h. Establishment of a centralised point (e.g., bank account, central bank) for international transfers dedicated to both incoming and outgoing transfer of funds (see C&R EG Nos 4 and 5)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[This is technically possible but not something that is currently being prioritised for active investigation. Any change would require operational consultation. MPBC would need to have one bank account rather than three, do not know if this is something that is being considered.](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

i. Provision of payment transfer services to any debtors transferring payments within the scope of the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention (see C&R EG No 5)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[Any change would require operational consultation.](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

j. Implementation of payment transfer monitoring systems (see C&R EG No 6)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[MPBC fully records payments coming in and going out but further consideration would need to be given to make this more robust/automated.](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

k. Implementation of unique case references, known to both the requesting and requested State, attached to each transfer of funds (see C&R EG No 7)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[MPBC has unique case reference numbers which are not always used by authorities. This does cause a problem sometimes when trying to allocate money to the correct account. Not currently being prioritised for investigation.](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

l. Implementation of currency conversion of payments done by the relevant authority in the requested State at the time of transfer (see C&R EG No 8)

Not being considered. Please explain:

[MPBC pay out at the rate at the time of the conversion. The Relevant authority tell us the rate used when paying money in.](#)

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

m. Implementation of bundled payments to reduce costs of transfers (see C&R EG No 11)

Not being considered. Please explain: [

MPBC can receive bundled payments providing a schedule of payments is provided at the time. We have 3 bank accounts one for Wales Area, one for London Area and one for the rest of England. We cannot have bundled payments with mixed areas in one bundle, they must all be for the same area in one bundle. Any change would require operational consultation.

Is being considered. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

[Please insert text here](#)

n. Any other developments:

Thank you!